



## **OWE, NO: CREDIT JERKS ANNOY GIS**

By LISA PULITZER

April 6, 2003 -- While their credit is good overseas, some members of the American military are finding it plummeting here at home.

Family members went ballistic over the way their sons and daughters are being treated by creditors and at least one city agency at a family forum for reserve corps troops on Long Island hosted by Rep. Steve Israel.

The Democratic congressman organized the forum at a VFW post in Huntington to answer questions and help tackle problems that the servicemen's families were having while their children were serving in the Middle East.

Big Apple bus driver Alvin Corridon blasted the city for refusing to even consider granting an extension to his 23-year-old son for outstanding parking tickets. Corridon's son, Omar, is a lance corporal serving with the Marine 6th Battalion in Iraq. "I tried to let them know that he was over there in the Middle East, and the operator said, 'I don't care, you're his dad, you pay for it,'" Corridon told The Post.

"He's over there dodging Scud missiles, and they think they can threaten him with a parking ticket."

A spokesman for the Parking Violations Bureau could not immediately be reached for comment yesterday.

Another woman in the crowd said that after her Marine reservist son - a police officer - went overseas, she and her husband tried to lend a hand with his bills.

When they called credit card companies to tell them that John Pierre Sylvestre was serving in Iraq, the firms threatened to refer his past due balance to a collection agency if his parents didn't fork over the funds.

The Marine's dad, Pierre Sylvestre, said his son tried to sort out all of his financial affairs before he shipped out, but that he'd had short notice - three days - and couldn't get everything done.

"It's outrageous," said Israel, who serves on the Committee on Financial Services. "It's not only immoral, but possibly illegal."

Israel vowed that his office would pursue the matter.

"Our military men and women are defending our freedom. They shouldn't have to worry about being dunned for late credit card payments here at home," the congressman said. Israel has established a 24-hour hot line for families with such problems: (631) 235-6723.

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